Purulia Pump Storage Project in West Bengal

638. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of NHPC's participation in Purulia Pump Storage project in West Bengal; and

(b) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of West Bengal (GoWB) for incorporating a Joint Venture Company (JVC) named National Pumped Storage Development Corporation Ltd. to undertake execution, operation and transmission of the Purulia Pumped Storage Scheme having an installed capacity of 900 MW.

Ministry of Power is in the process of obtaining the approval of the Government of India for formation of the above JVC and for investment approval for implementation of the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 3129.44 crores (at November, 2003 price level) including Interest During Construction of Rs. 454.68 crores along with the associated transmission system.

Faulty Electronic Meters in Delhi

639. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the electronic meters installed in Delhi are found to be either faulty or inaccurate;

(b) whether it is a fact that a random inspection survey was undertaken in October, 2004 all over Delhi by the BSES as part of its enforcement drive to check the accuracy of the electronic meters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per information made available by BSES No, Sir.

Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed that in response to a large number of complaints which were received regarding fast running of electronic meters, a Committee was set up by the Commission to look into the matter. The Committee tested about 375 meters, which were randomly selected from the stores of the DISCOMs. These meters were tested in the test bench set up in the Commision office, 91% of these meters recorded consumption levels within the prescribed limits given in the Indian Electricity Rules. About 2% of the meters were found to be slow and 0.5% were found to be faster than the prescribed limit. About 5% of the meters were found to be defective (seemingly due to design features) and they belong to a particular brand, namely, M/s. TTL. The Commission has directed the DISCOMs not to install any meters of TTL make until the design defects in them are rectified and the sample meters tested by the Committee before installation.

Providing Free Power without Budgetory Support

640. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State could provide free power without budgetary support to reimburse the State Electricity Boards;

(b) the States supplying free powers to farmers and other consumers; and

(c) the new power policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have the powers to fix tariff for sale of electricity to consumers taking into account the revenue requirement of distribution licensees. Section 65 of the Act provides that if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the SERCs, the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensees the full amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy.

As per the available information the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are providing free power to agricultural consumers. Tamil Nadu is also providing free power to the hut consumers. State of